

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, September 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in Hudson Manor.

Mayor Higgins stated that the notice of the time, date and location of the meeting had been provided pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975 (Open Public Meetings Act).

Councilman Kane opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence.

Mayor Higgins explained the meeting was being held at Hudson Manor in honor of Senior Citizen Recognition Month to highlight Freehold's active seniors and recognize them for their many contributions to the community. Mayor Higgins thanked the management and residents of Hudson Manor as well as the Freehold Borough Professionals that made the meeting possible.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT	MAYOR J. NOLAN HIGGINS
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DIBENEDETTO
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN RONALD GRIFFITHS
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN KEVIN KANE
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN GEORGE SCHNURR
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN SHARON SHUTZER
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN JAYE SIMS

Mayor Higgins introduced JCP&L representative, Jim Markey.

Mr. Markey reported the previous representative has retired and explained his role is to work with the municipal officials to address any issues that arise. He stated he will always be available to anyone that needs him.

Mayor Higgins introduced the Council Members and professionals that were present.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 4 on the Agenda as follows:

"Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting September 4, 2018."

Councilwoman Shutzer offered a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Councilman Griffiths:

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 5 on the Agenda as follows:

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ordinance #2018/9 of the Borough of Freehold, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey Amending Chapter 10 (Traffic), Section 10.28. (Permit Parking in Residential Areas), Schedules A, B and C.”

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

There were no comments.

Councilman Sims offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer.

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Councilman Griffiths offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2018/9 OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 10 (TRAFFIC). SECTION 10.28 (PERMIT PARKING IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS), SCHEDULES A, B AND C” be, and same is hereby approved on second reading.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 6 on the Agenda as follows:

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ordinance #2018/10 of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth Amending Chapter 2.64 Board of Recreation Commissioners, Section 2.64.010 Establishment and Composition.”

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

There were no comments.

Councilman Sims offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto.

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE #2018/10 OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH AMENDING CHAPTER 2.64 BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS, SECTION 2.64.010 ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION" and same is hereby approved on second reading.

Councilman DiBenedetto explained this will expand the board by two members.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 7 on the Agenda as follows:

"Second Reading and Public Hearing: Publish Ordinance #2018/11 Conveying Declaration of Deed Restriction in Favor of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, RE: Lot 27, Block 71, 15-17 Throckmorton Street."

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

There were no comments.

Councilman Sims offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto.

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Councilman Sims offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Schnurr.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE #2018/11 CONVEYING DECLARATION OF DEED RESTRICTION IN FAVOR OF THE NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, RE: LOT 27, BLOCK 71, 15-17 THROCKMORTON STREET" and same is hereby approved at second reading.

Councilman Schnurr explained this for the funds to clean up the property known as the Colaner Property.

Borough Attorney, Kerry Higgins explained the property was obtained through a tax board closure, it was contaminated and a grant was received to clean it up and make it usable for the public. In exchange for that, the deed restrictions must be given back to the state.

Mayor Higgins explained this is a piece of property on the one-way section of Throckmorton Street.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 8 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Herminio Suarez on the Occasion of His 100th Birthday.”

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Griffiths:

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD HONORING HERMINIO SUAREZ ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY.

Councilwoman Shutzer reported the resolution was presented at a celebration for his 100th Birthday. Councilwoman Shutzer shared parts of the resolution which highlighted his military career and medals.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 9 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, Providing for the Insertion of Special Items of Revenue in the 2017 Budget Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159).”

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Sims:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF SPECIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE IN THE 2017 BUDGET PURSUANT TO THE N.J.S.A 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159).

Councilman Kane reported this allows for the insertion of \$5,500 being included in the budget for the Click It or Ticket grant program.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 10 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing 2018 Professional Services Agreement with Abbington Engineering for Borough Engineering Services.”

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Griffiths:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2018 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ABBINGTON ENGINEERING FOR BOROUGH ENGINEERING SERVICES.

Councilman Schnurr explained Abbington Engineering has been asked to help with the East Main Street mid-street crosswalk across from the American Hotel.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 11 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing 2018 Professional Architectural Services with DMR Architects.”

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Griffiths:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2018 PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES WITH DMR ARCHITECTS.

Councilman Kane explained this is a contract authorizing DMR Architects for improvements to the firehouse.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 12 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing Freehold Borough Officials to Submit a Grant Application to the State of New Jersey, Department of Transportation, Trust Fund Authority Act, Fiscal

Year 2019.”

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Sims:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FREEHOLD BOROUGH OFFICIALS TO
SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, TRUST FUND AUTHORITY ACT, FISCAL
YEAR 2019.”**

Councilman DiBenedetto reported previous grants have allowed for improvements to numerous streets and he stated it is clear what a grant like this does. He explained improvements to Bannard Street and Stokes Street have been recommended for the 2019 fiscal year.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 13 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Awarding a Contract for the Construction of Various Sidewalks in the Borough of Freehold.”

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

**RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF
VARIOUS SIDEWALKS IN THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.**

Councilwoman Shutzer stated this is a result of our winning Participatory Budget idea. She stated there were eight bids for this project and there was a difference of \$358,934.00 between the lowest and highest bid.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated every year residents request this program in order to make sidewalks safer. He stated the program is on a first come, first serve basis and apologized to anyone that was not able to take advantage of the program.

Councilman Griffiths stated the program of sharing the cost with the residents for sidewalk replacement was a result of the Participatory Budget Project. He announced the idea has been presented again for the current ballot and we will have to see if it wins again.

Councilwoman Shutzer explained home owners are responsible for repairing the sidewalks. She explained this program allows the Borough to share the cost 50/50 with the resident. Councilwoman Shutzer added home owners that have been issued a summons for the condition of their sidewalk were allowed to apply for this program and have the Borough pay for half of the cost of the repair.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 14 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Approving the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointment to the Participatory Budget Committee:

- a. Kara Cannon**
- b. Ned Bryant**
- c. Carla Ramirez.”**

Councilman Griffiths offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Kane:

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT TO THE PARTICIPATORY BUDGET COMMITTEE: 14A-14C.

Councilman Griffiths reported all three people are Juniors in high school and the committee was seeking younger members. He explained the program allows residents as young as 14 to vote. Councilman Griffiths stated they came to a meeting and immediately offered new, younger ideas. He added hopefully by the next meeting another high school student will be joining the committee.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 15 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Approving the Following Applications:

- a. Raffle License #32-18, BPOE Freehold Lodge #1454, Off premise merchandise raffle, 12/16/18, 73 East Main Street.**

Councilman Sims offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATION NO. 15A.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item no. 16 on the Agenda as follows:

“Approval of Bills.”

Councilman Griffiths offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that the bills on the attached list in the amount of \$704,833.84 be paid as presented.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain Kane (PO #46292); absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 17 on the Agenda as follows:

“Clerk – Late Communications

There were none.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 18 on the Agenda as follows:

“Public Comment”

Ms. Carol Lida, Hudson Manor, Apt. A16. Ms. Lida thanked everyone that came out and supported the Human Relations Senior Appreciation festival. She stated everyone had a great time and looking forward to another great event next year.

Ms. Eva Sims, Hudson Manor thanked Mayor and Council, the Administration and Police Department for the love and kindness showed to her family for the recent loss of her son Reggie. She stated she did not know Reggie was loved so much and she added her son left a legacy. Ms. Sims thanked Mayor Higgins especially for the exceptional job he did in handling the arrangements.

Mayor Higgins stated condolences were offered at the last meeting to Councilman Sims and the family. He stated Reggie Sims made a huge impact in town and relayed the family is still in everyone's thoughts.

Mr. Bob Nash, Hudson Manor asked if a traffic light or stop sign will be installed at the new crosswalk going in on East Main Street.

Borough Administrator, Joseph Bellina responded there would not be a light, but there would be proper signage. He added it is very close to the current traffic light.

Councilwoman Shutzer responded that is a State Highway and it was not the Borough's decision.

Councilman Kane stated there has been discussion on how to make traffic slow down and make the crosswalk more visible.

Councilman Schnurr stated anything done will make it safer than how it currently is with people making a mad dash if they don't want to use the light, which everyone should be using.

Mr. Bellina stated the request was made two or three years ago and it has taken a full year to get the plan approved.

Ms. Hattie Smith, Hudson Manor stated she has brought up the subject of putting a blinking light in at Center and Jackson Street. She stated the four way stop signs that were put in are working because people are forced to stop.

Councilwoman Shutzer reported it was at a Hudson Manor Senior Citizen Meeting that the idea was first discussed and she brought the recommendation to the Police Department. Councilwoman Shutzer thanked Hattie for the recommendation.

Ms. Theresa Shwahla, Hudson Manor thanked the Mayor and Council for the Resolution recently presented to her for her 80th Birthday.

Mayor Higgins reported he and Councilwoman Shutzer attended Ms. Shwahla's birthday party and they had a wonderful time. He announced Ms. Shwahla is known as the Mayor of Ford Avenue.

Councilwoman Shutzer made a motion to close Public Comments, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 19 on the Agenda as follows:

"Council Comments."

Councilman Sims had none.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated it was a pleasure coming to Hudson Manor. He wished everyone celebrating the Jewish Holiday later in the week a happy holiday. Councilman DiBenedetto welcomed Michelle Miller, Danielle Trancho and Garry Jackson, all former employees.

Councilman Schnurr announced school is open and asked everyone to be observant when driving around town, especially during the morning and afternoon when the children are walking to and from school. Councilman Schnurr announced the Knights of Columbus will be canning in town on Saturday, September 22nd from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. He announced the monies received are used directly for the charitable organizations they support. Councilman Schnurr stated he was impressed at the work ethic of Councilman Griffiths who attended several events this past weekend.

Councilman Kane stated although Public Comments was closed, there were additional questions.

Ms. Martha Wanzer, Hudson Manor asked about the status of getting a new bus driver for the Freehold bus since they have been without one for several months.

Councilman Griffiths stated the bus is a joint venture between Freehold Borough and Hudson Manor that came about because Monmouth County's SCAT Bus program could not meet the needs of the residents of Hudson Manor, even before the Continental was open. He explained the agreement of Hudson Manor buying the bus, transferring the title to the Borough who maintains the bus and pays for the gas. Hudson Manor in turn hires and pays the bus driver's salary and benefits. Councilman Griffiths explained the requirements for a CDL license including recent federal stipulations. He explained the percentage of drivers that fail the exam has increased due to these restrictions. Councilman Griffiths stated the job has been offered and accepted by three people and explained their various reasons why they have not started.

Councilman Griffiths stated solutions are not easy and advised the residents to contact Monmouth County to use the SCAT bus. He stated Kelly Connelly Infante has agreed to drive for a few shopping trips until a full time driver is hired. Councilman Griffiths stated the bus is not just for Hudson Manor, it is for all of the senior citizens and disabled in Freehold Borough and assured the residents they are working diligently to find a dependable, safe driver. Councilman Griffiths thanked everyone for their patients.

Ms. Wanzer asked if the interim driver would be full time.

Councilman Griffiths stated the substitute driver will probably be driving just one day for trips to ShopRite. Councilman Griffiths stated if additional transportation is needed to call the county and they have a lot of buses.

An unknown resident remarked that the laundry room in Hudson Manor is very dirty and machines moldy. She stated the dryer filters are full of lint and hair. She asked who would be taking care of that.

Councilman Griffiths stated he understands three machines broke recently. He stated the room is cleaned every day, five days a week. Councilman Griffiths added it is the responsibility of the residents to clean the filters after each use.

Ms. Hattie Smith, Hudson Manor, stated Jose does a great job cleaning every day and people need to clean after themselves.

Councilman Kane thanked everyone for coming and thanked Hudson Manor for hosting the meeting. Councilman Kane announced yesterday was Administrator Joe Bellina's birthday and wished him a happy birthday.

Ms. Eva Sims, Hudson Manor, announced the Bethel AME Church will be holding a community festival on Saturday, 9/29 which is running in conjunction with the church's 175th Anniversary Celebration.

Councilman Griffiths thanked Bob Nash for the two ideas he submitted to the Participatory Budget. He encouraged everyone to think about any infrastructure improvements that need to be done in town and submit their ideas. Councilman Griffiths thanked the Human Relations Committee for the great job they did on the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony and Senior Appreciation Day, which was the best so far.

Councilwoman Shutzer thanked Hudson Manor for hosting the meeting and extended her appreciation to the Human Relations Committee for the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony and a wonderful Senior Appreciation Day. Councilwoman Shutzer stated a notice was sent from the County Clerk regarding voting by mail. She clarified the process for applying for mail in ballots and the restriction of not voting at a polling location if voting by mail. Councilwoman Shutzer reported on the Downtown Events including; Farmer's Market, Wednesday Concerts and the Flavor of Freehold on October 9th and 10th, which benefits the Freehold Alliance Against Substance Abuse. Councilwoman Shutzer reported on an article in the Asbury Park Press which highlighted the Downtown Concert Series starting on September 29th at St. Peter's Church. Councilwoman Shutzer announced there will be free paper shredding on September 29th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and the Boro Wide Yard Sale is the same day. Councilwoman Shutzer announced the Senior Holiday Party will be on Saturday, December 1st. She announced Sunday, November 11th at 2:00 PM, there will be a rededication of Veterans Park. She stated all the veterans will be honored there and the Lewis Brother Pavilion will also be dedicated to the Lewis family who had all six brothers serve during WWII.

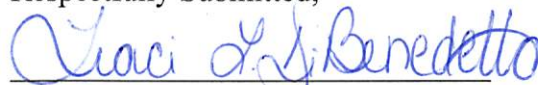
Mayor Higgins thanked Hudson Manor for allowing the meeting to take place there. Mayor Higgins stated residents are always welcome at the regular meetings at Borough Hall. Mayor Higgins encouraged residents to use the website and stated the governing body is always available and ready to serve the community. Mayor Higgins stated he is looking forward to upcoming fall festivities.

Councilman Sims offered the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Griffiths.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc